

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mouse comprising a genome comprising a) one functional elastin gene and b) either one nonfunctional elastin gene or no second elastin gene.
2. A mouse comprising a genome with no functional elastin gene.
3. A mouse cell comprising a genome comprising a) one functional elastin gene and b) one nonfunctional elastin gene or no second elastin gene.
4. A mouse cell comprising a genome with no functional elastin gene.
5. A method to screen for drug candidates useful for treating humans with SVAS, hypertension or atherosclerosis or useful for preventing atherosclerosis in humans, said method comprising administering said drugs to an *ELN* +/- organism wherein drugs which inhibit occlusion of arteries in said organism are said drug candidates.
6. A method to screen for drug candidates useful for treating humans with atherosclerosis, SVAS or hypertension or preventing the occurrence of atherosclerosis in humans said method comprising measuring activity of elastase in the presence of drugs wherein said drugs which inhibit elastase are said drug candidates.
7. A method of preventing or inhibiting atherosclerosis in a person heterozygous or hemizygous for elastin said method comprising treating said person with an elastase inhibitor.
8. A method of treating a person with hypertension or treating a person with SVAS to prevent vascular disease related to SVAS, said method comprising treating said person with an elastase inhibitor.

9. A method to screen for a drug candidate useful for treating atherosclerosis, hypertension or SVAS in a human, said method comprising treating *ELN* +/- organisms or *ELN* +/- cells with drugs and measuring synthesis of elastin RNA wherein a drug which increases synthesis of elastin RNA in said organisms or in said cells is said drug candidate.
10. A method to screen for a drug candidate useful for treating atherosclerosis, hypertension or SVAS in a human, said method comprising treating *ELN* +/- mice or *ELN* +/- mouse cells with drugs and measuring synthesis of elastin wherein a drug which increases synthesis of elastin is said drug candidate.
11. A method to screen for peptide candidates which when coated on stents and inserted into a human are useful for treating or preventing atherosclerosis or transplant arteriopathy or are useful in preventing restenosis, comprising treating *ELN* -/- organisms or *ELN* -/- cells with peptides wherein peptides which inhibit vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation or vascular smooth muscle cell migration are said peptide candidates.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said peptide candidates are elastin fragments.
13. A stent coated with a peptide which inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation or migration.
14. A method of treating a person by inserting a stent of claim 13 into a blood vessel of said person.

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